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describes the modes of occurrence of the diamond in Brazil. Diamonds occur in gravel, in clay or decomposed rock, in a compact quartzite conglomerate, and in their original matrix in veins traversing the hydromica schist and itacolumite formation. The diamond-bearing veins are decomposed hydrômica schists underlying the itacolumite. —— By making use of the polarizing microscope of Bertrand, Descloiseaux has been able to determine the crystallographic and optical characters of nadorite, and has shown that the crystals are twins. —— Rocksalt of a bright green color has been found in the Douglashall shafts. It contained 59 per cent. of potassium chloride with enclosed crystals of potassio-ferrous chloride ($2KCl$, $FeCl_2$, $2H_2O$), for which Ochsenius has proposed the name "*douglasite.*" —— A specimen of chalcedony recently brought by Mr. P. Rathbone, from Monte Video, contains an ounce of liquid, with a large bubble. —— An apple green, clayey substance occurs in crevices in the weathered granite of Upper Austria, which becomes brittle upon exposure to the air, and falls to pieces in water. It is essentially a hydrous silicate of alumina, and appears to be similar to the variety of fuller's earth, known as *razumoffskin.* —— O. Leudecke has studied the fireblende (pyrostilpnite), of Andreasberg, and finds its composition identical with that of pyrargyrite. As the former is monoclinic, and the latter rhombohedral, $Ag_3 SbS_3$ is proved to be dimorphous.

MICROSCOPY.[1]

THE AUGUST MEETINGS.—The Elmira meeting of the American Society of Microscopists, August 15-18, and the Montreal meeting of the A. A. A. S., August 23-30, will both be occasions of unusual interest, and all persons interested should attend one or both if possible. At Montreal the new section of histology and microscopy will meet for the first time, as a full section and with the same standing as the oldest and most important sections of the association.

EYE PROTECTORS.—Nearly every one who has used the monocular microscope to any extent has experienced a peculiar fatigue, due to the unequal use of the two eyes, which is felt most in the unused eye, and which is about equally troublesome whether that eye be kept open and confused by a useless vision, or closed and irritated by the sudden and frequent changes from use to disuse and by the unnatural muscular efforts required to accomplish this. In most cases, as is well known, if this process be continued long enough, the disused eye becomes comparatively worthless, and the person works almost exclusively with one eye, whether with the microscope or without it. A similar effect has been noticed in the habitual use of the telescope and other optical instruments. Persons are often obliged, after some years, to practice using the left eye chiefly, for the sake of restoring as far as possible the equality between the two. In addition to using the two eyes with equal frequency, most microscopists experience the greatest relief by shading the unused eye in such manner as to admit light but prevent vision, and about as many contrivances have been made for this purpose as there are persons who have felt the want of them. Pennock's Eye Shade, fig. 1, made by James W. Queen & Co., leaves but little to be desired for this purpose. It is portable, convenient, and efficient, can be adapted to any instrument, and, by simply turning it over, be used equally well with either eye. One of the best plans for a home-made shade is that recently described by Dr. L. Brewer Hall, of Philadelphia, before the Northern Medical Association of that city. A piece of brass wire, No. 18, about 45 centimeters long, is bent at one end into a loop 4 centimeters in diameter and covered with a piece of black paper folded over and gummed down so as to form a disk. This is supported in front of the unused eye by the rest of the wire, the other end of which is formed into a ring fitting around the drawtube or any available portion of the microscope. The middle portion of the wire is bent down so as to be out of the way of the nose. Any one can make this shade at a nominal cost.

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[1] This department is edited by Dr. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.

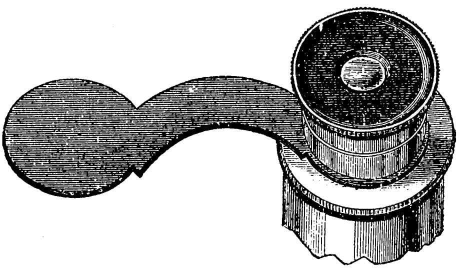

Fig. 1.—Pennock's Eye Shade.

An Adjustable Spring Clip.—The Nassau spiral spring clip, the construction of which is sufficiently explained by Fig. 2, can be instantly adjusted, by a screw movement, to any degree of pressure that may be required upon the cover glass during the process of mounting an object. It is made by J. H. McAllister, of 49 Nassau St., New York.

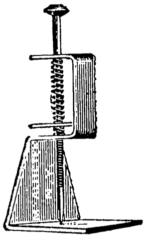

Fig. 2.

Cereal Foods under the Microscope.—Some months ago Dr. Ephraim Cutter, of New York, published an elaborate microscopical analysis of over forty kinds of flour and meal, mostly dietetic preparations used for children's and invalids' food. The nutritive value was assumed to be in proportion to the presence of the so-called "gluten cells," and those preparations were represented as worthless and fraudulent which did not contain a due proportion of these cells. If trustworthy, this report would have been one of the most important contributions of the microscope to practical affairs. We published no account of its conclusions, because of the certainty that the gluten cells did not contain all the gluten, and the want of proof or probability that they represented with any accuracy the proportion of gluten present or the comparative nutritive value of the preparations. Besides, the relative value of the various foods, thus determined, did not correspond with the previous results of clinical experience, some foods of well proved value being classed as spurious, and others being apparently overrated. Dr. J. G. Richardson has recently published a note denying wholly the conclusions of Dr. Cutter's paper, and calling attention to the well known fact that fine flour from which the "gluten cells" have been removed, still contains from seven to twelve per cent. of gluten.

REMOVAL.—A. & A. F. Spitzli, dealers in microscopes and optical goods, have removed to the Hall Building, Troy, N. Y., where they have increased facilities for filling orders by mail for microscopical supplies of every kind.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— In January last, at the suggestion of Professor C. E. Munroe, a post-graduate course in natural history was inaugurated by the detailing of six midshipmen to duty at the National Museum as assistants to Professor Baird, by whom they were assigned to the care of the different curators. The suggestion of Professor Munroe was made operative through the earnest efforts of Rear Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers and the active coöperation of Commodore John Walker, and it met with the hearty approval of the Hon. Secretary of the Navy. Although at first Professor Baird feared that the plan might fail, owing to the detailing of unsuitable men, still he was willing to give it a trial and permit them to come. It is a pleasure to say that now, after some months' trial, the midshipmen ordered have pursued their studies with such diligence and application, and have performed the duties assigned them so intelligently and faithfully, that the course meets with his entire approval. Professor Munroe calls attention to the fact that it is not intended, and, in fact, it is quite impossible in the time assigned, to make scientific experts, yet it is hoped to make broader men, and, consequently, better officers of these midshipmen, while they are still employed in rendering services of great usefulness to the Government, at a time when they can best be spared from their regular duties. It is believed, too, that in the time assigned they may gain enough acquaintance with the subject to enable them to observe and record the natural phenomena with which they may meet while in the regular pursuit of their profession.

— Dr. C. A. White, palæontologist of the Smithsonian Institution, left July 1st for Glendire, Montana, on the Northern Pacific R. R., to spend three months in palæontological research. Professor Cope is *en route* for Oregon on a similar errand. Mr. S. H. Scudder spent the month of June in Colorado, collecting fossil